

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A mobile handset comprising:

a housing having at least one ~~[[a]]~~ key opening and a transparent area integrally associated with a front portion of the housing;

a graphical element positioned adjacent the key opening and on the transparent area, the graphical element being indicative of a key function, wherein ~~said~~the graphical element is located on the transparent area in the front portion of ~~said~~the housing; and

a backlighting source within the mobile handset and constructed to illuminate at least a portion of the transparent area.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the backlighting source comprises at least one source selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescent panel and an array of light emitting diodes.

Claim 3 (previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the transparent area comprises a translucent area.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one layer of an opaque coating upon at least a portion of the transparent area.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The device of claim 4 wherein the graphical element comprises a negative image within the coating.

Claim 6 (previously presented). The device of claim 5 wherein the graphical element comprises at least one type of graphical element selected from the group consisting of laser-etched graphical elements, pad-printed graphical elements, and in-mold decorated graphical elements.

Claim 7 (previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the graphical element comprises at least one type of graphical element selected from the group consisting of painted opaque graphical elements, pad-printed opaque graphical elements, and in-mold decorated opaque graphical elements.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the housing and the graphical element comprise an in-molded graphical element.

Claim 9 (previously presented). The device of claim 8 further comprising at least one layer of an opaque coating on the non-graphics surface area of the housing.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The device of claim 8 further comprising at least

one layer of an opaque coating on the graphics surface area of the housing.

Claim 11 (currently amended). A mobile handset comprising:

a translucent housing having an outer and inner surface;
at least one layer of an opaque coating upon at least ~~said~~the outer surface of ~~said~~the translucent housing;
graphical elements located on at least ~~said~~the translucent housing outer surface, ~~said~~the graphical elements positioned adjacent key openings on ~~said~~the translucent housing and being indicative of a key function, and comprising a negative image within ~~said~~the coating so as to expose ~~said~~the translucent housing outer surface through ~~said~~the graphical elements; and
a backlighting source located within ~~said~~the housing for enhancing the visibility of ~~said~~the graphical elements, ~~said~~the backlighting source comprising at least one source selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescent panel and an array of light emitting diodes.

Claim 12 (currently amended). In a mobile handset comprising a split housing defining front and back portions, the front portion carrying a key pad including a plurality of spaced apart keys arranged in a convenient manner to permit user access to telephonic functions, a power source, a backlighting source such as an electroluminescent panel, and graphical elements including a plurality of symbols each corresponding to one or more telephonic functions, the improvement comprising:

at least the front portion of ~~said~~the housing formed from light transmitting material;

an opaque layer covering selected portions of ~~said~~the light transmitting housing front portion defining the edges of the graphical elements, wherein ~~said~~the graphical elements are located on ~~said~~the transparent area which is integrally formed in a front portion of saidthe light transmitting housing; and

the electroluminescent panel arranged within the housing so that visible light is emitted through areas of ~~said~~the housing front portions not covered by ~~said~~the opaque layer.